

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8061
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
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USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH POLITICIANS COMMENT ON GOVERNMENT FORMATION
EFFORTS

REF: ANKARA 5039 (DTG 051130Z JUL 77)

1. SUMMARY: NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) OFFERS EITHER TO
JOIN IN COALITION WITH JUSTICE PARTY (JP) AND NATIONALIST ACTION
PARTY (NAP) OR OT SUPPORT IT FROM OUTSIDE, PROVIDING LONG LIST
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OF CONDITIONS IS MET. NAP MAKES SAME OFFER, WITHOUT CONDITIONS.
CARETAKER PRIMIN ECEVIT REPEATS WARNING THAT NO VALID GOVERNMENT
CAN BE FORMED WITHOUT TAKING HIS REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP)
INTO ACCOUNT. END SUMMARY

2. NECMETTIN ERBAKAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE RELIGIOUS-FUNDAMENTALIST NSP
TOLD REPORTERS JULY 5 THAT PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE SULEYMAN

DEMIREL HAS THREE POSSIBLE WAYS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT: A GRAND COALITION BETWEEN DEMIREL'S JP AND CARETAKER PRIMIN BULENT ECEVIT'S RPP, A MINORITY GOVERNMENT OF THE JP AND THE ULTRA-RIGHTIST NAP WITH OUTSIDE SUPPORT BY THE NSP, OR A JP-NAP-NSP COALITION. ACCORDING TO JULY 6 PRESS, ERBAKAN SAID THE NSP WOULD UNDERSTAND THE FIRST BUT VOTE AGAINST IT AND WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT EITHER OF THE OTHER TWO FORMULAS, PROVIDED THE NSP'S CONDITIONS WERE MET. THE NSP WOULD REQUIRE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHECK INFLATION, DISCIPLINE THE ECONOMY, CONTINUE THE "GREAT HEAVY INDUSTRY DRIVE STARTED BY THE NSP", END IMBALANCES AMONG GROUPS AND REGIONS IN TURKEY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND, ABOVE ALL, FOLLOW "A FOREIGN POLICY WITH PERSONALITY" WHICH WILL "SAFEGUARD NATIONAL INTERESTS."

3. IF THE NSP REMAINED OUTSIDE THE CABINET, ERBAKAN SAID, ITS MEMBERS WOULD "KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE GOVERNMENT" AND WITHDRAW THEIR SUPPORT "IF IT IS NOT FULFILLING ITS DUTY." A JP-NAP-NSP COALITION WOULD NOT BE ANOTHER "NATIONALIST FRONT" GOVERNMENT LIKE THAT WHICH PRECEDED THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS BUT WOULD BE A "NATIONAL-LIBERAL GOVERNMENT" COMBINING THE "NATIONAL OUTLOOK" OF THE NSP WITH THE "LIBERAL OUTLOOK" (I.E., IN TURKISH POLITICAL TERMINOLOGY, PRO-BIG BUSINESS OUTLOOK) OF THE JP. ERBAKAN SAID THAT HIS PARTY HAD "DECIDED TO FOLLOW THIS CONSTRUCTIVE LINE IN ORDER TO PREVENT A PROLONGED GOVERNMENT CRISIS FROM EMERGING."

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4. JULY 6 PRESS REPORTED THAT JP GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTED JULY 5 TO GIVE DEMIREL FULL POWERS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. DEMIREL REPORTEDLY SAID AFTER THE MEETING THAT HE FOUND THE NSP'S STAND "EXTREMELY POSITIVE" BUT HE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE NSP'S CONDITIONS BEYOND SAYING THAT CONSENSUS WOULD BE WORKED OUT.

5. NAP LEADER TURKES, COMMENTING ON ERBAKAN'S STATEMENT, IS REPORTED IN PRESS AS SAYING THAT A JP-RPP COALITION IS IMPOSSIBLY AT THIS STAGE DUE TO "ECEVIT'S DISCORDANT BEHAVIOR" BUT THAT THERE WAS A HIGH PROBABILITY OF EITHER A JP-NAP-NSP COALITION OR A JP-NSP COALITION WITH NAP SUPPORT FROM THE OUTSIDE.

6. CONTINUING A THEME WHICH HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED SINCE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VOTED AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT JULY 3, THE RPP LEADER, CARETAKER PRIMINECEVIT REPORTEDLY TOLD AN RPP JOINT CAUCUS JULY 5 THAT THE SINGLE-PARTY RPP GOVERNMENT FORMULA HAD HAD TO BE TRIED. ACCORDING TO JULY 6 PRESS, ECEVIT SAID, "WHILE WE MUST NOW DIGEST THE FACT THAT WE CANNOT FORM THE GOVERNMENT ALONE, THE OTHER PARTIES MUST ALSO DIGEST THE FACT THAT NO GOVERNMENT EXCLUDING THE RPP CAN BE VALID... THE RPP IS THE LARGEST PARTY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE SENATE, AND THE TURKISH GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (TGNA)...THE RPP IS

THE RULING PARTY IN THE TGNA...IT MAY BE THAT NOT EVERY LAW THAT
WE WANT CAN PASS, BUT NO LAW CAN PASS AGAINST OUR OPPOSITION."

7. COMMENT: ERBAKAN'S "CONSTRUCTIVE STAND" IS MOST LIKELY
INTENDED TO PUT THE NSP IN A GOOD LIGHT WHILE IT BARGAINS WITH
DEMIREL FOR ITS SUPPORT. TURKES PRESUMABLY OFFERED OUTSIDE
SUPPORT ONLY TO MATCH THE NSP OFFER; HIS PARTY HAS NO APPARENT
REASON TO WANT TO STAY OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT.
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